

# NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

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BY W. J. MURTAGH & CO.  
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Friday, April 18, 1862.

Reading Matter on every page.

CLUBS FOR THE DAILY NATIONAL REPUBLICAN TO SOLDIERS.  
A PAPER THAT EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD HAVE.

We have been induced to offer our daily paper to soldiers, who shall form clubs, at the following low rates:

1 copy, 4 months	\$1.50
5 copies, 4 months	6.00
10 copies, 4 months	10.00

All over ten copies, at the rate of one dollar per copy for four months.

The names must always be accompanied with the money.  
Write the names distinctly, and give the company and the number of the regiment.  
The papers will be mailed to one name, or the names will be written separately, if desired.

OTHERS.—Official Report (in full) of Gen. Grant; Report of the Pursuit of the Enemy by Gen. Sherman, &c., &c.

## THE CIRCULATION OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

Vast numbers of persons have been brought to Washington by the present war, and have remained here long enough to understand the political views of the National Republican, and to see the place it fills and the opportunities which it has for influencing public opinion.

These persons, if of Republican sympathies, have almost invariably expressed themselves in a very kind manner of our enterprise. They appreciate its importance, and have been disposed to look indulgently upon short-comings.

When this paper was established, Washington was quite as much of a Southern town as Baltimore, and not at all inclined to favor a Republican journal. Things are changing for the better in that respect, but the difficulties to be encountered are still very considerable.

In order to place this paper on an independent and therefore useful basis, it is necessary that its circulation in the States should be enlarged.

We publish, in addition to a daily, a large and handsome weekly, at prices ranging from two dollars to one dollar per annum, according to the number taken. It contains all the matter of the daily, not strictly local, and is cheap at the single subscription price of two dollars.

To obtain the circulation we ought to have, will require the friendly exertions of many persons. If each one, who takes an interest in our enterprise, will exert himself, when he gets home, to send us subscriptions, few or many, as he may have opportunity and access, the aggregate result will be large.

## AN ACT OF INDIGNITY.

The suit commenced by Mr. Butler against General Cameron for an act done by the latter while Secretary of War, has led to the suggestion that a bill should be passed by Congress to indemnify the President, Cabinet, and "all others in authority," for such judgments as may be recovered against them in cases like this of Mr. Butler, when under the agency and necessity of a great rebellion, executive authority has been assumed and exercised, beyond what the courts may adjudge them to have possessed.

Persons in office must take the risk of construing the laws differently from the courts. So, too, it may be their highest duty to overstep the boundaries of law, even when there is no doubt about the construction of it. To obey the laws is a duty; but, as Mr. Jefferson said, "not the highest duty"—which is to save the country. Men in office, acting conscientiously and with the best light they have, ought to be protected against personal consequences, when they go beyond the strict letter of law.

Our statute books are full of acts of indemnity, passed in favor of officials under these circumstances; as, for example, the act refunding to General Jackson the amount exacted from him as a fine by a judicial functionary at New Orleans.

But as it would be monstrous to pass a bill of indemnity for all future cases of transgressed official authority, so it is hardly less monstrous to propose such an act for all past cases in the lump and without discrimination. Each case must stand on its own peculiar circumstances.

The passage of such a sweeping bill, aside from other consequences, would have the effect of inviting suits by individuals imagining themselves to have been aggrieved. It would also have the effect to induce juries to find verdicts against officials, and to inflate the amount of such verdicts. With a general law making such verdicts payable out of the public treasury, it would be a question of money directly between an individual and the Government, and individuals command sympathies which the Government never does.

It is proper to be said, that we do not understand that the Administration desire the passage of any such sweeping bill of indemnity as we have referred to. So far as we understand anything about it, our information is that the Administration has discontinued the suggestion when made. This is most probable, as it cannot but be foreseen that such a measure would be most invidious.

In his message of April 8, to the Confederate Congress, Jeff. Davis, having taken account of the first day's battle at Pittsburg Landing, speaks of it as "a glorious and decisive victory." He says:

"After a hard fought battle of ten hours, the enemy was driven in disorder from his position, and pursued to the Tennessee river, where, under the cover of the gunboats, he was, at last, completely defeated. He retired by aid of his transports."

The disappointment at Richmond, upon learning the result of the second day's battle, must have been overwhelming.

# REBELS AND THINGS AT THE CAPITAL.

The world-renowned contest between the Merrimack and the Monitor has "done for" the present style of coast fortifications. This we learn is the deliberate judgment of the military and naval committees of Congress. No more stone forts are needed after the experience the enterprising "Yankees." The rebels are very fond of their tick-name, "the Yanks," yet somehow those very "Yanks" seem to be superior to the oblique, scalp-taking Southern gentlemen. The Military Committee of Congress will recommend that no more money be squandered upon forts and fortresses, but that every dollar that can be spared be at once put into floating batteries, iron-clad vessels of war, and the like. These are the true defenses of the country hereafter. We learn that if the Merrimack does not very soon come out that she will be very likely to find reinforcements to the Monitor. The rebels possibly are a little ahead of us in the construction of two or three of these vessels, but it will take but a short time for Yankee gunsmiths to beat them. If the mechanical genius of the free States cannot build five iron-clad gunboats where the rebels can one, we ought to be beaten. There can be no doubt as to which party in this great controversy will be benefited most by the revolution in naval science.

## WILD RUMORS.

There is a class of people who live upon improbable rumors. To keep them alive, the sensationists every day coin some wild story respecting the war or a Cabinet change. Rumors were thick yesterday at the hotels of the resignation of Mr. Stanton, the vigorous Secretary of War, and of Mr. Welles, the Secretary of the Navy. The news-mongers were greatly delighted with those wild speculations and foundationless reports. Doubtless, there are persons in this city, as well as elsewhere, who would like to drive Messrs. Stanton and Welles from the Cabinet, but they will never accomplish their object in this way.

## CONGRESS.

Yesterday was a dull day in Congress. Nothing stirring in the debate relative to the general duties in either House. Quite a number of persons were gathered to hear McDougall and Wade upon Gen. Stone, but they were disappointed, the debate not being resumed. In the House, the Pacific railroad bill was discussed pro and con, but no vote was reached. It is evident that the bill will not pass without amendments—perhaps it will be postponed.

The Senate went into executive session for a few moments—long enough to refer several nominations appropriately; among others, the emancipation commissioners. They were sent to the District Committee. We hear that the committee will move to reject the nomination of ex-Mayor Berret, but this may be a mistake. Of course no one knows this to be a fact. Senator Wilson and family left town by the six o'clock train last evening for Natick, Massachusetts, their home. Mr. Wilson returns early next week.

## THE WEATHER.

There is a wondrous change in the weather since the snow storm of a few days ago. The leap from winter into the midst of spring is a quick one. Some of our generals might learn a lesson, if they would, from Nature's "strategy." To be sure, she is generally "slow" in her movements, but what wondrous results are occasionally wrought by her lightning changes! The mowers will soon be upon the Capitol lawn, and the breezes which sweep over the Capitol grounds will be freighted with the sweet odors of May flowers. Summer soon will be upon us. Let the corporation remember this—and the dead horses on the city frontiers. A few hundred dollars expended now may save the city from a summer plague. In spite of the water cuts, the Avenue is strewn with clouds of dust. It will do very little good to care for the Avenue, unless the adjoining streets are also cleaned and watered.

## A CITY RAILWAY.

When will Congress give us a railway? We are in instant need of one. The immense distances of the capital would no longer remain a nuisance with a good system of horse railways, which will not the parties who are quarrelling over rival charters get out of the way, unless their forces, or do something which will give us the road? Let Congress pass a bill before this month closes, and by the 1st of August the cars will be running from the Capitol to Georgetown, and before next winter all the way to the Navy Yard.

## SPECTATOR.

RUNNING OFF SLAVES.—We have noticed in our local columns several instances of the running off of slaves from this city, immediately before the signing of the emancipation bill. A case occurred on Thirteenth street, where we live, at six o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, the day of the signing of the bill. A two horse wagon load of negroes (one man and the balance women and children) was driven by under the direction of a white man on horse-back. The wailing of the women will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it.

MORE PAY WANTED.—A petition to the Senate from the military army corps of cadets, as drafted by a committee for that purpose at a meeting in this city, on the 13th instant, asks an increase of rank and pay, (which is now \$30 per month) to the rank and pay of Brevet Second Lieutenant of Infantry. It premises that a cadet must have a liberal education, have studied medicine two years, attended one full course of lectures, and passed an examination before the Army Medical Board; that by any and every circumstance of position they are thrown into association with commissioned officers, and that not one, after an experience of eight months, has been able to pay expenses without assistance from friends. The Sanitary Commission endorses the demand as just, reasonable and proper.

MARYLAND.—Charles Carroll and Charles McTavish, grandsons of "Charles Carroll of Carrollton," the last survivor of the "Signers," are both reported to be in favor of emancipation in Maryland.

THE NAUGHTY FELLOW.—The Nashville Union of the 12th instant says:

"Some of the furthest rebels of Nashville are ugly, scrawny, lank, and toothless old girls, who can't attract the notice of the Union soldiers. They are the worst of rebels, 'without an if or a but.'"

Governor Johnson ought to take care of that fellow of the Union.

# LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

## LATEST FROM YORKTOWN.

### [The Ball Opened.]

### An Artillery Engagement.

### Rebel Batteries Silenced!

NEAR YORKTOWN, April 17.—During Tuesday and Wednesday the gunboats amused themselves by shelling the woods below Gloucester. One of them approached within two miles of Yorktown, yesterday morning, when the rebels opened from a new battery concealed in the woods. The boat having obtained the position of their guns, returned to her position without receiving any damage.

The firing was renewed to-day at long intervals.

The rebels yesterday morning, with 1,000 men, commenced to strengthen a battery located about three miles to the left of Yorktown, when a battery was brought to bear, causing them to beat a hasty retreat.

The rebels opened with their heavy guns, when a second battery was brought forward. A brisk fire was now kept up for four hours, during which three of the enemy's guns were dismounted, when both parties ceased for a while; but the contest was resumed on our part late in the afternoon and continued till daylight this morning, effectually preventing the rebels from repairing the damage they had sustained. The loss of the enemy must be considerable, as the firing of our artillery was very accurate. Our loss was, Sergeant Baker, Second Michigan, killed, and F. Page, Co. K, Third Michigan, killed, and his foot shot off; also, four horses, which were killed. Yesterday Richard Painter, of the Berdan Sharpshooters, was probably fatally shot, while on picket. Other engagements took place further to the left, and near James river, in which our troops showed very great gallantry. The results have not yet been fully ascertained.

## Mt. Jackson Occupied by National Troops!

### Reported that the Rebels will Show Fight!

### Several of them taken Prisoners

### ADMIRABLE CONDUCT OF OUR TROOPS

### GEN. SHIELDS COMMANDING IN PERSON.

The following was received yesterday at the War Department:

Mount Jackson, April 17.—9 a. m.—Our troops occupied Mount Jackson at 7 o'clock this morning, and are now in front of Reed's Hill, where the enemy appeared to be in force. The people report that they intend battle there. They retreated our advance in order to gain time for the burning of bridges and railway cars, engines, &c., that had accumulated at the terminus of the road; but our movement was so sudden, and the retreat of the rebels so precipitate, that we were enabled to save the bridges, two locomotives, and some cars. All these had been prepared with combustible material for conflagration.

Many prisoners have been taken, and several fine horses captured from the enemy.

The troops have acted admirably; they were in motion at 1 o'clock, a. m.

Col. Carroll's brigade, of Shields's division, led the advance on the back road to the rear of Mount Jackson, and Gen. Kimball on the turnpike; Gen. Williams, with his splendid division, bringing up the reserve column.

We shall occupy New Market to night.

Gen. Shields has so far recovered as to be able to command his division in person.

## From the Shenandoah.

### Capture of Railroad Rolling Stock, &c.

### Gen. Banks on the Advance!

STANBURY, April 17.—It is reported here by reliable officers, that General Williams and Shields's commands passed Stony Creek last evening, and advanced towards Mt. Jackson.

They surprised, in a church, a company of Ashby's cavalry, 50 to 60 strong, in company with 3 lieutenants and horses of the company. So secure did they feel, that they had neglected to post pickets. The prisoners are now here in charge of Col. Candy, commander of the post, to be forwarded to Baltimore.

Col. Candy, in person, keeps up an active scout through the mountain haunts of the rebels. His cavalry, between two forks of the Shenandoah, captured and brought in several prisoners who aided in an attack on his pickets.

He reports the inhabitants as almost destitute of the necessities of life, and ignorant of our force, but request protection against rebel depredations, having never taken part in the war. It is thought they are generally and decidedly in favor of the restoration of the Union.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

Dispatches from Banks, dated Mt. Jackson, this morning, states that he had seized two locomotives, several cars, saved bridges, many prisoners, and several fine horses. His advance was so sudden that the enemy had not time to destroy work or property, although every preparation had probably been made to do so.

GREAT ACCUMULATION OF NEWSPAPERS AT THE NASHVILLE POST OFFICE.—The Post Office Department has received information that newspapers from nearly all the principal cities of the North and West, directed to the rebel States and to offices long since discontinued, are being sent in large quantities to the post office in Nashville, Tenn., for distribution. These papers cannot be forwarded and accumulate at that point to such an extent as to make it difficult to find room for them in the office. To relieve the postmaster from the heavy burden thus improperly imposed upon him, it has become necessary to instruct him to sell, as waste paper, such as cannot be delivered, or forwarded, under present postal arrangements.

There are 1,769 employees in the Philadelphia navy-yard.

# The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Construct an Iron Bridge over the Potomac at Harper's Ferry!

## A Rebel Court "Nipped in the Bud!"

### Three Union Magistrates Held the Court!

### MARTINSBURG BECOMING LIVELY!

### Rebel Deserters and Refugees Fleeing in!

### ARRIVAL OF A BRUSH HEROINE!

MARTINSBURG, April 17.—The designers and engineers of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad inform your correspondent that during the present month they will commence the erection of a superb iron bridge over the Potomac at Harper's Ferry. The structure is to be of a highly ornamental as well as of permanent pattern, costing, it is stated, about \$250,000. The piers of the present structure are to be raised five feet—far above any danger from future freshets. Mr. Quincy, constructive engineer of the company, will superintend the erection of the bridge, which has been designed and nearly completed by Mr. Bollman, the well known bridge architect and builder, of Baltimore.

A little episode in the history of the rebellion transpired here yesterday, which was the date fixed by both the former and Confederate constitutions for the convening of the court of Berkeley county. At the appointed hour, the sheriff, under the Confederate regime, entered the court-house, and was about to ring the bell, summoning the late Confederate Judge, John B. Nadenbush, to his seat, when Thomas Noske, a well-known loyal citizen, seized the sheriff by the arm, and emphatically notified him that "no rebel court should hereafter convene in Berkeley county without passing over his dead body." The sheriff desisted, and the rebel court did not convene.

Subsequently, by permission and under the direction of Maj. C. M. Walker, Tenth Maine volunteers, provost marshal of the town, three Union magistrates were selected by the loyal citizens, and held the court. Some official business was transacted, court and county officers appointed, and the court adjourned until the next term without ordering any election, but awaiting the action of the constitutional State authorities in the premises.

The town begins to assume the appearance of new enterprise. The railroad depot is crowded with heavy trunks of merchandise, and hundreds of hands are employed in erecting new structures and repairing the damage done by the ruthless Confederate military. The town is filled with refugees and deserters from the rebel ranks, the latter of whom are not very kindly received by the former, and frequent collisions ensue, requiring the interference of the Provost Marshal.

Among the recent arrivals, is Miss Bell Boyd, who figured some months ago at Manassas Junction, in supplying the rebel troops with whisky, and was the heroine of a fatal conflict between two military companies who were rivals for her stimulating donations and sweet smiles.

## From the South.

### Our Mortar Fleet Passes Forts Jackson and Philip, in the Mississippi, without Opposition.

### THE REBELS REMOVING THEIR GUNS FROM PENSACOLA.

PHILADELPHIA, April 17.—A letter to the New York Herald from Key West, says that ten mortar boats and three gunboats have passed Forts Jackson and Philip, on the Mississippi river, without a shot being fired on them.

Pensacola has not yet been evacuated.

A despatch from Pensacola says that only a thousand men remained there. The beleaguered forts and batteries erected there of late have been blown up whenever an attack is made.

The Herald has extracts from Norfolk papers of the 15th instant, and Richmond papers of the 16th.

## FROM FORT PILLOW.

### Progress of its Siege!

### Ex-Lieut. Hager, U. S. Navy, in Command!

### HOLLIS "GONE BELOW!"

The Navy Department has received the following dispatch:

CLARK, April 16.—The mortars opened on the 14th, and soon cleared the river of all vessels. Our shell fell in the rebel camp.

The rebel works are strong and extensive. Two deserters came on board the gunboats and say that ex-Lieut. Thomas Hager (of the U. S. Navy) is in command at Fort Pillow, and that General Pillow and Commodore Hollis have gone below.

## Sad Accident on the Shenandoah—Troops Drowned.

WINCHESTER, April 17.—Yesterday, a large boat containing a number of men and officers of the 75th Pennsylvania regiment, was swamped at Cashman's Ferry, on the Shenandoah. Between forty and fifty men and several officers were drowned. Among the latter were Adjutant Yeaman and Capt. Wilson, of the 75th Pennsylvania. The company and Capt. Mark will endeavor to obtain a full list on the arrival of the regiment here. The regiment was formerly commanded by Col. Bohlen, now acting brigadier general 3d brigade Blenker's division.

## The Berdan Sharpshooters.

HEADQUARTERS PORTER'S DIVISION, Third Army Corps, Camp near Yorktown, April 8, 1862.

Colonel Berdan, Commanding Sharpshooters: Colonel: The Commanding General instructs me to say to you that he is glad to learn, from the admissions of the enemy themselves, that they begin to fear your sharpshooters. Your men have done a large number of the enemy to bite the dust. The Commanding General is glad to learn that your corps are proving themselves so efficient, and trusts that this intelligence will encourage your men, give them, if possible, a clearer eye and a steadier hand, so that when their true rifle is played at the foe they will make one rebel less at every discharge.

I am, truly,  
Your obedient servant,  
FRED T. LOCKE,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

The Sacred College at Rome is composed of seventy cardinals. The Cardinal Maachi, the oldest, is in his ninety-second year, and the youngest is but 45 years of age, while ten are 75 and upwards.

The American flag is once more waving over the principal towns in Alabama.

# Latest from Fortress Monroe.

## The Merrimack.

BALTIMORE, April 17, (from Fortress Monroe, April 16).—The calm weather prevailing at the Roads has been most propitious for the appearance of the Merrimack, but she does not come out, it is concluded that she was most likely injured by getting aground when last down.

The Richmond Dispatch has some comments on the Merrimack, which, it says, spent two days in Hampton Roads, battering the Monitor and the Yankee fleet to come up in range of our shore guns. They claim that she is master of Hampton Roads.

The exploit of the Jamestown, in seizing three vessels, is regarded as showing the terror with which the Yankees view the Merrimack. Considering it not worth while to waste any more coal in fruitless effort to engage the Monitor to a conflict, the Merrimack returned to her anchorage.

The belief is very general here that the Merrimack received some injury during her recent raid, which compelled her to go back to Norfolk. She was undoubtedly aground all the second day, and from the heavy weight of her armor she may have sprung a leak. She is, however, back at the Norfolk navy yard, and there is little doubt she has been taken back there for repairs of some kind.

When moving about the upper Roads on Friday last, and exchanging shots with the Naugatuck, she was very close to the English steamer Racer—at one time close alongside. In conversation with one of the English sailors yesterday, an experienced gunner, he assured me that the last gun the Merrimack fired—either the gun or the shell exploded before it left the muzzle of the gun. He was close enough to see the explosion on board, and the escape from the port holes.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

Norfolk, April 16.—There is nothing of interest stirring in this neighborhood today. The Merrimack is still out of sight.

The Norfolk papers of to-day contain the following:

Richmond, April 12.—Both Houses of Congress have adopted a resolution to adjourn on Monday next and to meet again on the 3rd Monday in August.

Reports have been received here of the landing of Yankee troops at Tappahannock, Essex county, Virginia, (on the Rappahannock river).

Richmond, April 15.—Five gunboats went to Williams on the Rappahannock river on Sunday, and next day proceeded to Tappahannock. No troops were landed, and the movement is supposed to be a reconnaissance or feint.

Official information from New Orleans states that the attack on Forts Jackson and Philip commenced yesterday, 14th inst.

Savannah, April 15.—The Morning News learns that Jacksonville, Fla., was evacuated by the Federalists last Tuesday. They said they were going to Tybee. The town is now in possession of the Confederates.

The Norfolk Day Book announces the arrival there of the French frigate Gaxendin with the French Minister, and states that there was great cordiality and many munitions on the occasion.

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# THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

IN SENATE,  
Tuesday, April 17, 1862.

The following messages were submitted and appropriately received:

By Mr. WILLEY: From citizens of Harper's Ferry and workmen at the armory, praying for the establishment of the national armory at that place.

By Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts: From the medical cadets of the United States army, praying for an increase of the rank and pay of the medical cadets to the rank and pay of brevet second lieutenant of infantry, United States army.

Also, by the same: Two petitions from citizens of Massachusetts, praying the adoption of the principle of "internal taxation and support," as suggested by E. B. Bigelow to Hon. Thaddeus Stevens.

By Mr. HARRIS: From citizens of New York, remonstrating against the tax bill before Congress, praying the immediate consideration of the same, and praying that Treasury notes be issued for the full amount of the unfunded debt.

By Mr. HOWARD: From citizens of Michigan, praying the passage of the bill reported by Hon. F. P. Blair, providing for the construction of a ship canal from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. HARRIS: From the committee on Naval Affairs, reported a joint resolution, appropriating \$7,000 for the relief of the marine battalion, the members of which lost their personal effects in the foundering of the steam transport "Governor," in the expedition to Fort Roysa, which was considered and passed.

On motion of Mr. GRIMES, a resolution of inquiry was adopted, asking from the President a copy of the testimony and judgment of the several courts in the case of Lieutenant Charles E. Fleming, U. S. N., also the testimony and finding of the Naval Relieving Board in the case of said Lieut. Fleming.

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